

## Philis Alvic

*“Weavers are problem solvers. We like to figure out things and work things out. . . you look at other people’s patterns for ideas but we like to figure out things and put things together in our own way.”*

Philis Alvic grew up in Chicago. She graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has lived in Alaska, Florida, and South Carolina. She has lived in Kentucky since 1976.

Philis has done research into the Appalachian Crafts Revival of the early 1900s. She wrote a book called *Weavers of the Southern Highlands* (University Press of Kentucky, 2003). Her book explains how weaving centers helped many women to earn a living. They could weave in their own homes. The centers sold their work. Philis understands how weaving can be used for economic development to help women. She has traveled to many countries to help develop weaving as a way for women to earn a living. She has been to Peru, Morocco, India, Nepal, Armenia, Sri Lanka, and seven countries in Southern and Eastern Africa.

Her work as a scholar and consultant has inspired her creativity as a weaver. She creates patterns to communicate visual ideas. She usually works in a series. Some of her series have been inspired by her travels, by works of art, or by literature. Her latest series is called *Portals*. It explores the ideas of transition by suggesting windows and doors.



*This piece is called “City Windows.” What do you imagine might be outside this window?*